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MINNESOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

VOLUME 4. No. 5.

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QUARTERLY

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FREE LIBRARIES SUPPORTED BY TAX.

It is a well recognized and perhaps too calmly accepted fact that the greatest needs of the public library movement, especially in smaller places are: (1) recognition of the importance of the library as a civic and educational factor, and (2) adequate support which should be a natural consequence of such recognition.

In setting forth the need of a campaign of library publicity at the recent meeting of the A. L. A. Council in Chicago, Miss Mary W. Plummer, principal of the New York public library school referred to the prevalent attitude on the part of taxpayers, and even some members of library boards, who maintain that the town can't afford any increase for library purposes, "with sidewalks and waterworks and electric lighting, etc., to pay for. The important things must come first." Notice that word 'important.' In the minds of at least half the voters of the community, material improvements take precedence of what goes into the minds and spirits of the people to make better people, and hence better citizens, and every one knows that when a reform administration

comes in, on the cry of economy, the first things to be cut down in cost are the public schools and the public library."

The list of tax-supported libraries in Minnesota has steadily grown until it now includes 86 cities and villages, and in addition there are 39 communities in which free libraries are maintained by library associations, civic leagues or women's clubs, leaving but 9 communities having a population of over 2,000 in which no public library effort has been made.

While this is an excellent showing, a glance at the table of library statistics shows that many of the appropriations are ridiculously small, and that many of the association libraries have no visible means of support.

Of the 39 association libraries, 14 have received some aid from the council, in eight instances being provided rooms in the city hall, an item of considerable importance in the library budget.

The attorney general has recently ruled that city or village councils have no authority to make appropriations for libraries which are under the direction of private associations, which is a strong argument to be urged in favor of organization under the state law, with a board of directors appointed by the council and a permanent fund provided by tax levy for support. Some important amendments were made to the library law at the last session of the legislature, (1) increasing the limit of tax levy to three mills, (2) providing for a permanent tax levy by county and township boards in co-operation with local libraries, and (3) authorizing the combination of school libraries and public libraries under favorable circumstances.

Library associations are urged to make a careful study of the library law and consider whether the time may not be ripe for reorganization on a permanent basis under its requirements, and public library boards should see to it that library appropriations are keeping pace with other town improvements and are sufficient to give efficient service and meet the growing needs of the community. The advantages of county and township extension have frequently been dwelt upon in these columns and co-operation with school libraries offers a further opportunity for getting better results from the investment of public funds.

The following summary of reasons

Why the free library should be supported by public tax

reprinted by permission from New York Libraries, states clearly and forcibly the arguments for library taxation and is commended to the consideration of library associations.

1. Such a tax puts the library on the right basis as a public institution. The purpose of the library is the same as that of the school, the enlargement and enrichment of the intellectual life of the community, and it should therefore be supported on the same grounds and by the same methods as the school.

2. The state as a whole raises money by taxation for the aid and encouragement of libraries and thus establishes the library tax as a state policy. It is an anomaly that a village should receive the aid of the state tax for its library while refusing a local tax. It is as if a school district were to receive public school money from the state without itself bearing a tax for school support.

3. The library supported by a general tax ceases to be a charity, contributed by the few to the many and becomes the right and property of all. When one uses a library supported by private gifts, he is accepting a favor; when he uses a library supported by public tax he is using what is his own by right. The tax thus promotes a feeling of independence and self-respect in the library patrons.

4. Taxation is the easiest and fairest way to raise the money needed. Money raised by entertainments, subscriptions, sales, etc., means a great burden of labor, care and expense to a few, and usually to net the sum desired a very much larger sum must be

expended. The required amount spread over the tax rolls is hardly felt even by the largest taxpayer.

5. It adds dignity to the library and increases the respect in which it is held. To be made each year an object of charity for which private subscriptions are solicited and rummage sales held tends to bring it into contempt, and greatly lowers its influence in the community.

6. A stated tax, yielding a known and fixed income, enables the trustees to pursue a consistent and constructive plan of library development, which is impossible where the income is dependent on fluctuating impulse and effort.

7. There is perhaps no tax levied from which the people can get so large a return for so little money. A \$500 tax in a village of 2,000 people is equivalent to an average of 25 cents a year for each resident. For this insignificant sum each person in the village is offered a pleasant reading room, as good as that supplied by many a club, a dozen or more of the best periodicals, a collection of books, such as perhaps the wealthiest person in the community could not possess as an individual, and about \$200 worth of new books to read every year.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The 1914 Conference.

The City of Washington has been unanimously chosen by the Executive Board as the next meeting place of the Association, and the date, May 25-30.

Headquarters will be at the New Willard, the finest hotel in the capital, but accommodations can only be had there for about 200 members. The rates of the New Willard, however, will be inconveniently high to many. Across the street the New Ebbitts offers accommodations for 400 or 500 at a rate of \$3.00 a day and up, American plan. A large number of other hotels in the vicinity offer a wide range of service and prices. Library assistants will find room and board if desired as low as \$2.00 and \$2.50 per day. A rooming bureau will be established in Washington through which the members will be helped to secure the class of accommodations they desire.

The conference will begin on Monday and end on Saturday. The program committee, fully appreciating the many library and other educational features of Washington which should be visited, propose to have

only four general sessions instead of the usual six, and the various sections and affiliated societies will be urged also to lighten their programs so as to give more free time to delegates. It is hoped that a small pamphlet will be compiled and distributed to all registering, enumerating the various libraries in the district, how to reach them, hours they are open, principal attractions of each, and how they may serve the librarians of the country at large.

The program committee are already engaged in the program. Its general tone and nature will of course be influenced by the fact of its presentation at the national capital and in proximity to the national library and the various departmental libraries which perform a more or less national service. The meetings will mostly be held in the New Willard hotel. Perhaps for some of the large general sessions other arrangements will be made. A number of pleasant social features are being tentatively planned. Post-conference plans have not yet been formulated, but something interesting, enjoyable and relaxing may be confidently expected from the resourceful and experienced chairman of the travel committee.

Washington will be such a magnet that it is unnecessary to urge librarians to plan to attend this conference. It will undoubtedly be one of the largest in the history of the association. It is hoped that each one who goes will carry home definite and clearer knowledge how his own community and his own library may be helped by the Library of Congress, by the office of the superintendent of documents, by the library of the bureau of education, the department of agriculture, and the other departmental systems. That will make our first Washington conference a success worthy of repetition in the future.

European Tour.

The double attraction of the annual meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom in Oxford, England, August 31-September 4, and the International Exhibition of the Book Industry and Graphic Arts, to be held at Leipzig throughout the summer will draw many librarians to Europe this year. A cordial invitation to the Oxford meeting has been extended to members of the A. L. A. and the program will be given an international character. The A. L. A. will also have an exhibit at Leipzig.

Through the travel committee, arrangements have been made with the Bureau of University Travel of Boston for a personally conducted tour sailing from Boston, July 11, by way of the Azores, Gibraltar, and Algiers for Naples, and touching some of the great cities of Italy and Germany on the way to Leipzig.

Any who are interested in this tour should write immediately to the chairman of the travel committee, F. W. Faxon, 83 Francis St., Fenway, Boston, Mass.

MIDWINTER LIBRARY MEETINGS.

The midwinter gathering of librarians in Chicago is becoming more and more like a meeting of the A. L. A., both in numbers and multiplicity of interests.

The League of Library Commissions held three sessions of unusual interest, with an attendance of 39 delegates from 15 states. The general topic for discussion was "Co-operation of public educational forces." At the first session the subject of Extension work and co-operation with specialized schools of the State University was thoroughly discussed, bringing out the enlarging opportunities for library service offered in the varied developments of extension work through correspondence courses, farmers' institutes, short courses in agriculture, demonstration trains, etc.

The fact that in some states books were obtainable through several sources, showed the necessity of closer co-operation and avoidance, as far as possible, of duplication. The majority agreed that the Library Commission was the natural distributing center.

The advantage of advertising the work of library commissions through the extension agencies was emphasized, as well as the need of continual publicity to inform school and college faculties of their resources and the aid which can be given to students. A publicity committee was appointed to present a plan of national publicity for commission work as an aid in co-operation, to report at the regular meeting of the league in May.

At the second session, the topic of Study clubs as a co-operative force was discussed, the work of Miss Maud van Buren in the Junior Department of the American Civic Association was presented, and co-operation of library commissions was asked in arrang-

ing state-wide civic campaigns. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to messages from new commissions and reports of committees.

The topic for the final session was "Wise co-operation between library departments of a state and the state board of education." The growing tendency to place library interests under boards of education was the keynote of the animated discussion which was opened by Miss L. E. Stearns of Wisconsin and Dr. Max Batt of North Dakota. Many of the commissions represented feared that library interests would receive scant attention under such a consolidation, while others felt that it was useless to attempt to oppose so widespread a movement.

The committee on study outlines reported that the H. W. Wilson Co. was prepared to publish study outlines and it was voted that the publication committee should co-operate with them in this greatly needed work.

The questions discussed by the council were timely and treated with freshness and vigor. Mr. W. H. Kerr, presented an admirable report on Possible newspaper publicity for the A. L. A., its conferences and work in general, which was followed by an animated discussion.

Miss Josephine A. Rathbone of Pratt Institute conducted the discussion on Some points in the code of professional etiquette for librarians.

Miss Plummer's paper on a Campaign of library publicity in the general magazines, not only showed the need of such a campaign, but that there was enough literary ability among librarians to write acceptable articles and enough material, if properly handled, to arouse a wider interest in the many phases of library work. A discussion of the quality and prices of magazines opened one of the most puzzling questions of the day, and a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of preparing an approved list of periodicals.

The Chicago Library Club entertained the visiting librarians on the evening of January 1st with a reception and dance in the ballroom of the Hotel LaSalle, which was library headquarters.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Executive Committee of the Minnesota Library Association has accepted the invitation of the Little Falls library board for the annual meeting. The date has been fixed for Sept. 15-17.

The committee has been fortunate in securing Mrs. Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen, formerly of the College of Education of the University of Chicago, the well-known storyteller, as the chief speaker. Mrs. Thomsen will give an evening address of general interest and will also give a practical talk on Method of story-telling and a story hour for children. Other speakers will be Dr. William Dawson Johnston, librarian of the St. Paul Public Library and Mrs. C. L. Atwood, of St. Cloud, president of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs.

The chief theme of the meeting will be The library and public recreation, with a paper on Moving pictures and discussion of the use of the victrola in the library. Another topic will be The library and the club, with a talk on Program-making and discussion of work for Rural clubs. One session will be devoted to a round-table on problems of administration; business methods; and reports on difficulties and successful experiments.

It is designed to make the meeting of interest to club women as well as to librarians and trustees and any suggestions as to topics for discussion, will be gladly received by the President, Miss Martha Wilson, Dept. of Education, St. Paul.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

The National Education Association will meet in St. Paul, July 5-11.

Minnesota librarians are urged to become members. The payment of \$2 entitles an individual or institution to associate membership which admits to all meetings and secures the printed proceedings. This book gives in detail all papers and deliberations presented at the meeting and is not otherwise obtainable.

The officers of the library department are: President, Mr. Willis H. Kerr, Librarian State Normal School, Emporia, Kansas; Vice President, Mrs. P. P. Claxton, Washington, D. C. (late librarian of Nashville, Tenn.); Secretary, Harriet A. Wood, Library Association, Portland, Ore. Chairmen of committees: Co-operation, Mary E. Hall, Girls' High School, Brooklyn; High Schools, Anna Hadley, Gilbert school, Winsted, Conn.; Normal Schools, Ida M. Mendenhall, Tompkins Cove, N. Y.; Rural Schools, Martha Wilson, St. Paul.

The committee are now at work on the programs which will be given at the various sessions. The full program will be pub-

lished in the June number of the bulletin. It is planned to have one meeting of the rural library section a joint one with the rural school section. A library exhibit will be a feature of the meeting and it is expected that a number of librarians from neighboring states will be in attendance. The Minnesota Library Association plans to hold a one-day meeting during this week to take advantage of the opportunity to hear and meet the visiting librarians. The date will be arranged to fit in with the part of the N. E. A. library program which will be of greatest interest to Minnesota librarians.

ROUND TABLE MEETING—DULUTH.

The officers of the Northeastern Minnesota Educational Association gave place on the program for a library section at the meeting in Duluth, February 12-14. Miss Martha Wilson, Supervisor of School Libraries, was chairman of the section, and in co-operation with the Library Commission, three sessions were held with a good representation of the public and school librarians from this part of the state. Mr. M. S. Dudgeon, Secretary of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, was present at all of the sessions and contributed much of value to the discussion.

The first session was a round table for public librarians, held at the public library on the afternoon of Feb. 12th. Miss Clara F. Baldwin, Secretary of the Library Commission presided. There were eighteen present, representing eight public libraries and two school libraries.

The meeting opened with a discussion of the furnishing and equipment of library buildings for social service. Miss Newhard, of Virginia, reported great success with the victrola concerts held every Sunday afternoon. Miss Palmer stated that the Chisholm library planned to begin with records of foreign music to appeal to these people and bring them to the library. Plans for an exchange of records between libraries in the neighboring towns on the Range were discussed. Miss Wright told of a plan to use the opera records in connection with the story hour, if records which would appeal to children could be found. The use of the radiotelephone in club work, school work, story hours and public talks and entertainments offered many possibilities. Difficulties in the way of conducting men's club rooms in libraries were fully discussed. A small writ-

ing room in Hibbing is used to some extent, but in general no way of attracting workingmen to the library in large numbers has been found. Mr. Dudgeon told of a successful club room at Elroy, Wis., largely patronized by the railroad men, whose success was due to its location and the supervision of an unusually capable janitor.

Most of the librarians present are in the circuit for exchange of foreign books on the Range and there was brief discussion of some of the details of this plan which is proving very successful.

The importance of co-ordination of library effort on the Range was emphasized since the towns are so close together and an efficient library system is rapidly being developed. Miss Wiley reported that Hibbing, through its township extension work is placing books in a number of adjoining mining locations, Virginia has deposit stations in the outlying schools, and Two Harbors through its county extension plan now has books in 30 stations throughout the county. The need of reading matter for the lumber camps was set forth by Miss Newhard. Some of the camps were prepared to care for books, while others asked only for magazines and discarded books which need not be returned. Miss Malmquist, of Two Harbors, reported that a number of stations in Lake county were located in lumber camps and the books were in charge of the camp clerk. The need of fresh, interesting reading for these thousands of men was urged. Mr. Dudgeon said that in Wisconsin the Commission has made an effort through the lumber companies to secure the addresses of camps and to encourage the libraries in their vicinities to supply them with reading material.

The importance of standardizing children's collections was dwelt upon. Miss Wright had confined her purchases for the school collections entirely to the school library list, others used other standard lists. A tendency on the part of children to demand new, modern stories has been noticed by several librarians.

On Friday morning, Miss Wilson conducted the round table for school and public librarians, with an attendance of 25.

The discussion of library relationships opened with the question of circulating school collections, showing considerable variation in methods. At Gilbert, the collections are exchanged every month, at Hib-

bing every two or three months, at Two Harbors once a year, although the teachers draw any books needed for their building at any time, at Biwabik, collections are exchanged every two months and at Superior twice a year.

In teaching the use of the library various plans are used. Miss Earhart takes the seniors and juniors of the High School by classes showing them the arrangement of the library and the use of important reference books. Most of the public libraries furnish duplicates of books on the required reading list. In response to the question, at what age it is wise to begin teaching children to use the card catalog, Miss Eaton of the Superior Normal told of a recent experiment with children of the third grade, and believed it was possible to teach children of the 4th or 5th grade with good results. The importance of training children in the grades in the use of books is obvious, in order to prepare them beforehand for High School work, aside from the fact that many of them never enter the High School.

The use of the library in vocational guidance was urged by the chairman, referring to Leavitt's Examples of industrial education as an aid in this work, containing the outlines prepared by Mr. Jesse Davis of Grand Rapids.

It was agreed that special and graded lists were of great value in directing reading, brief lists of 40 or 50 books for each grade being specially approved. The advantages of arranging books by grade or indicating grades on the books were doubtful, as it is impossible to grade all children according to a fixed standard.

In discussing home reading, the value of Christmas exhibits of books for purchase was emphasized. Miss Lowe reported that the Cloquet library has undertaken the sale of books at Christmas time with good results. The importance of persuading dealers to carry in stock the books recommended was urged.

At the superintendent's section held in the afternoon, there was an attendance of between 35 and 40. Miss Wilson introduced Mr. Dudgeon, Secretary of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, who opened the discussion on The function of the library in the modern school. Mr. Dudgeon maintained that the function of the school library is essentially the same as that of the public library, both resting on the fundamental fact

that no matter what one's work or life may be, there is somewhere a printed page which will help one to do his work or live his life more efficiently, and it is inefficiency not to take advantage of what other people have done and lived. In the school library the first aim must be to help students in the school work, (1) to help them to do their present work better, and (2) to give them an impetus to develop the mental habit that makes one a student, and opens the possibilities of literature.

In purchase of books, Mr. Dudgeon urged the importance of work with the lower grades. There should be an abundance of books for them since it is through the younger children that parents are reached, and in these days of multiplicity of interests, it is difficult to get a grip on the older children. He further urged superintendents to buy only the best, avoiding attenuated, diluted editions of classics written down for children, to provide plenty of collateral reading, which cannot be started too young, to avoid complete sets of anything, since no human being is always at his best. It will be found that four or five of Thackeray, for example, will be sufficient for any working library—even Shakespeare's complete works will not be needed in the average library. It is better to buy plenty of duplicates of the plays which are read.

Lastly, he urged the importance of coordinating the school library work with the public library work, in order to effect a transition from the use of the school library to that of the public library.

The ideal school library should provide as many books as there are pupils in each grade.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Blair of Hibbing reported that \$1,000 a year was spent on books for their school library, that while a good many books had been purchased which were not used, there was excellent use of the grade collections sent to the buildings, the circulation averaging about 1,000 a month.

Mr. Colgrove of Virginia saw no reason for any community maintaining two libraries and was satisfied that they had made an ideal arrangement in combining their school library with the public library. Books for general reference are kept in the High School, and class-room libraries are placed in each room in five grade buildings. The supervisors were encouraged to interest the

children in reading and with the attractive new library building under the direction of trained, wide-awake, librarians the pupils were using the library to the fullest extent.

Mr. Gilruth of Nashwauk and Keewatin said that in those villages they were planning to make the school library a public library, the school to provide room and service, and the village to pay \$500 a year for books.

At Ely, Mr. White reported that the school library was open to the public but had not been extensively used.

Mr. Greening, of Eveleth, said that their school library had been open to the public; but that the new public library was nearing completion. They had made it a rule not to buy of agents and the book appropriation was limited to \$500 a year, so that they had been able to avoid purchasing the cheap fiction asked for by the public.

As to the qualifications and training of the librarian, Mr. Dudgeon urged the need of training, that the librarian should be on a par with the teachers, all of whom must be especially trained for their work, and should be sufficiently familiar with books to guide the teachers and students.

All the discussion showed the large resources of the libraries in Northeastern Minnesota and their great possibilities for service, and it was evident that closer cooperation between schools and public libraries and trained service to administer the growing collections were the greatest needs.

SUMMER SCHOOL 1914.

The Summer School for Library Training will be held as usual at the State University, June 15 to July 26, as a department of the University Summer School.

The usual elementary course will be offered, under the direction of the secretary of the Commission assisted by members of the Commission staff. Miss Miriam E. Carey, Supervisor of Institution Libraries under the Board of Control, will give the instruction in classification and cataloging. Miss Martha Wilson, of the Dept. of Education, will give the lectures on children's work and work with schools and school libraries.

The meeting of the N. E. A. in St. Paul, July 4-11, will bring to the city several prominent library workers. The schedule for the week will be arranged so that students may attend all of the library section meetings,

and it is expected that special talks before the class will be given by the visiting librarians. As announced elsewhere, it is hoped that a number of librarians throughout the state will attend these meetings, and if a sufficient number desire it, a series of supplementary lectures can be arranged for former students of the school.

The course is open only to those holding library positions, or under definite appointment to such positions, and to teachers in charge of school libraries. There is no tuition fee for students holding positions in Minnesota, but a registration fee of ten dollars is paid by those from other states. Students are also required to purchase necessary supplies, the cost of which is not over \$5.

Any librarians who are considering attendance at the Summer School and those who are planning to attend the N. E. A. are asked to correspond with the director at once. Full announcement giving an outline of the program, and further information as to board and expenses will be issued about May 1st.

PARCEL POST FOR BOOKS.

After March 16, books will be admitted to the parcel post. The weight limit is increased to 50 pounds within the 1st and 2nd zones, which would include a radius of 150 miles, and to 20 pounds in all zones beyond the second. For all book parcels up to half a pound, the old rate is preserved. Throughout the second zone, that is, within 150 miles, the changes are all decreases. Within the third, fourth and fifth zones, that is, from 150 to 1,000 miles, the rates are mostly decreases, while for distances over a thousand miles, the parcel post rates are throughout higher than the present book rates.

It is evident therefore that for extension of library service within the state, and especially in the county systems, the change will be a very great advantage. It will doubtless prove a great stimulus to wider use of the county libraries by individual borrowers and more general adoption of county extension by all progressive libraries.

MINNESOTA DOCUMENTS.

The Legislative manual and Executive documents (in 6v.) are now ready for distribution, and will be sent to any public library which will pay the cost of transportation. A notice was recently sent to all

public libraries in the state, but many have not responded.

Every library in the state, however small, should have a copy of the Legislative manual, while only the larger libraries will need the Executive documents.

If your library is not already supplied, write at once to Charles A. Rose, Document Clerk, The Capitol, St. Paul.

CIVIC CAMPAIGN.

The chairman of the Civics Committee of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs is arranging a circuit in Minnesota during the month of April for Miss Maud van Buren of the American Civic Association. Librarians who heard Miss van Buren's interesting presentation of her methods of work at the Minnesota Library Association meeting last October, are asked to encourage the clubs in undertaking this work, and to co-operate with them in every possible way.

AIDS FOR LIBRARIANS.

Material on Geography, which may be obtained free or at a small cost, compiled by Mary J. Booth, Librarian Eastern Illinois State Normal School, is a useful bibliography reprinted from the *Journal of Geography*, by the A. L. A. Publishing Board. The Commission has obtained a quantity of copies and will mail one to any public library in the state upon request.

Home Reading for High School Pupils. The National Council of Teachers of English has issued a list of books for home reading which will be helpful to teachers and librarians in recommending books for high school pupils. The list may be obtained by addressing the Council at Sixty-eighth St. and Stewart Ave., Chicago, Ill., for ten cents each or sixty cents a dozen, postpaid.

Reading for Pleasure and Profit. This is another list for high school pupils issued by the Free Public Library of Newark, N. J., in a third revised edition. The list has grown out of actual experience in suggesting books for young people and is recommended to teachers and librarians. Copies may be obtained of The Free Public Library, Newark, N. J., at five cents each.

Books That Girls Like. This list has been compiled in answer to a need felt in the branches of the Brooklyn Public Library, for a list of books for girls who go to work

at the end of the 8th grade, and do not have the stimulus of high school education. The list would be a useful one in any library in helping to suggest books for young girls who are outgrowing the children's room. It may be obtained of the Brooklyn Public Library for 4 cents including postage.

Books of Adventure. An annotated list of seventy-five books of adventure for boys and girls has been prepared by the Children's Department of the Cleveland Public Library. The books have been found popular with many boys and girls, and the note after each title tells a little of the story and suggests a good book to read afterwards. The price is five cents by mail. Address Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

Disinfection of Books. Dr. W. L. Beebe, of St. Paul, has made some experiments in disinfection of books by the carbo gasoline method, the results of which were given in the *Journal of the American Public Health Association*, vol. 1, No. 1, January, 1911.

A very volatile gasoline which is termed 88 Baume or gas machine gasoline containing 2 per cent carbolic acid is used. The books are immersed in the carbo gasoline for 20 minutes.

A book can be partially dried after removing it from the gasoline by holding open in front of an electric fan for 2-3 minutes. It will then dry out thoroughly by standing on end with the leaves open. In 24 to 48 hours after disinfection it is ready for use.

If the odor of carbolic acid and gasoline is offensive some of the essential oils, such as peppermint, wintergreen and cinnamon can be used as a deodorant. The writer has found a mixture of—

oil peppermint	3 parts
oil wintergreen	1 part
oil cinnamon	1 part

to be very efficient in disguising the odor of carbolic acid.

The advantage of this method is that anyone can apply it. The only precaution is to keep the gasoline and book until dry away from the fire.

Necrology of 1913. Mr. Ernest Aldrich, President of the Library Board at Benson, has prepared a list of the more prominent literary personages and those associated in library and kindred work who died in 1913. The list was published in the local paper and Mr. Aldrich has kindly had reprints made which are mailed to each library with this number of *Library Notes and News*.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

New international cyclopedia, 21v.

In good condition, with or without fumed oak case. Supt. W. O. Lippitt, Jackson, Minn.

Guizot, History of France, 7v.

Mrs. Mary R. Wendt, Alden, Minn.

Wilson, History of the American people, 5v.

Miss Eva M. Davis, Public Library, Sauk Center, Minn.

Books Wanted.

Reader's guide, 1910, 11.

Redwood Falls Public Library, Miss M. Frances Moore, Libn.

Hampton's magazine, March, 1910.

Spring Valley Public Library, Miss Alice V. Steffens, Libn.

TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES.

In response to repeated demands for Polish books, several groups of six volumes each have been added to traveling libraries. The first library of 25 volumes was sent to Little Falls.

A progressive librarian uses the local newspaper to advertise the traveling library. Editors are, as a rule, glad to print the list. Occasionally the annotated list on the inside doors of the newer libraries has been printed in full.

Some of our public library patrons, who have been in the habit of receiving more than one traveling library at a time, have been obliged to give way to the rural districts where books were more needed. In spite of this attempt to distribute the books to the best advantage and in spite of the fact that every available volume has been in circulation, there are between fifty and sixty communities still on the waiting list.

Demands for the Farmers' libraries have far exceeded the supply of agricultural books which the Library Commission could furnish. Eighty-four applications from Farmers' clubs have been received in the last four months. The Commission was unable to send libraries to all of these, although a very large proportion of the book fund for the current fiscal year was devoted to this purpose. The first applications were promptly supplied, but many others are still on the waiting list. Often an application from a new place was an entering wedge and a regular traveling library accepted when there were no agricultural books.

Agricultural interests in Minnesota have grown so enormously in the last five years

that to keep pace with the extension work of the Agricultural College of the State University, a larger appropriation should be made for supplying the farmers with books. Each farmer should advise his representative of the fact before the next legislature convenes.

Bulletins bearing on alfalfa, animal husbandry, etc., have been collected from national and state departments and bound in temporary binders according to subject. These volumes furnish most concise and authoritative data.

In the fall package libraries on twenty-three subjects were made to furnish quicker and more efficient service to the debating clubs of the state. Quoting from newspapers in various districts, "A greater boon could not be offered the country," and students have been keen to avail themselves of the opportunity. The most popular subjects for debate have been Recall of judges, Woman suffrage, Government ownership and Immigration. In January 288 requests for material came to our reference librarian and in response to this 167 books and 1,399 articles were sent.

H. J. S.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NOTES.

In December a series of visits were made to the towns on the range and included Two Harbors, Aurora, Virginia, Gilbert, Eveleth, Chisholm, Mountain Iron, Buhl, Hibbing, Nashwauk and Keewatin.

Two Harbors and Hibbing maintain both a school and public library, Eveleth and Chisholm have only school libraries at present, but each are about to open new public libraries, with trained librarians. Virginia has effected a consolidation of school and public library. The books are housed in the public library and school collections are sent to all of the schools. In Aurora a small public library has been recently opened, containing mostly books for adults and for the present the school will maintain its own library. The Gilbert school library is open to the people of the town and also supplies outlying schools with books. Buhl is serving the library needs of the town both for children and adults. In the new school building at Keewatin, and in the addition to the school at Nashwauk, provision has been made for a library room with outside entrance which is to be maintained as a public library. The school furnished room, light, heat and librarian and the town as-

sists in providing funds for books. In each place it is planned to have a club room for men in connection with the library and a trained librarian is to be in charge.

Library exhibits of books and aids were held in connection with the district educational meetings at Moorhead by Miss Hurlbert, Mankato by Miss Farr, Winona by Miss Grant, and by the Department of Education at Bemidji and Duluth. At Bemidji a talk on the library was given in the rural and graded section, at Duluth in the rural section.

In connection with a joint meeting of women's clubs in Morris, January 26th, an exhibit of illustrated children's books was made and a talk given on children's reading.

Many calls for organization have been received, but it has not been possible to aid all. Miss Haven, of the Library Commission, organized the school library at Jackson. The school library at Breckenridge was classified, accessioned and marked in January. The library at Mountain Iron was organized in February. This library has just added about 200 of the best children's books. The library of the consolidated school at Alberta was put in order Feb. 27-28.

School and public libraries have been visited at Morris, Morris Agricultural School, Crookston Agricultural School, Bemidji, East Grand Forks and Ely. In all of these schools, except Ely, a special talk was made to the students of the teachers' training department on the rural school library. M. W.

INSTITUTION LIBRARY NOTES.

The new Minnesota State Prison is attracting so much attention at present that some statements with regard to the Chautauqua Circle there may be of interest to librarians.

A branch of the Chautauqua Association has been in existence at Stillwater for fifteen years, and during that period regular courses of study have been pursued by the members. The best educated of the prisoners belong to the circle. It elects its own officers, prescribes its laws of government and exercises full power in all matters pertaining to its conduct and management. In his biennial report for 1901-2 the Warden makes the following statement: "Not a single case of abuse of power or misuse of privilege has come to my notice during the past ten years."

Weekly meetings of the Circle are held and every quarter there is a formal open meeting at which carefully prepared papers are presented by the members and an address is delivered by some specially invited person from the outside.

Recently the Circle has asked for suggestions with regard to a course of study and reading, and the following program is now under consideration by the officers:

Theme: Greatness in Men, with digressions on questions of the day and other contemporary matters.

1st Meeting: What constitutes greatness?

Carlyle's standard of greatness; What goes into the making of a great man; Discussions of the characters of Napoleon and Cromwell, Washington and Lincoln.

2nd Meeting: What constitutes failure?

Joan of Arc: a failure; A new view of Andrew Jackson; Comment on "Splendid Failures" by Graham.

3rd Meeting: When is a handicap not a handicap?

Informal discussion of three books—Shaler, Masters of fate; Eucken, Meaning and value of life; Crothers, Three lords of destiny.

4th Meeting: Study of certain modern men with a view to their claims to greatness, beginning with Edison.

Review of his life; Description of his greatest inventions; What does life mean to a man like Edison?

5th Meeting: Review of Talbot—Moving pictures.

Is the influence of the movies good or bad? What efforts, if any, are made to control this influence? The history of the phonograph and its probable future, the effect of the phonograph on musical taste.

6th Meeting: Roosevelt.

His boyhood and youth, his special advantages and disadvantages. What does he owe to both? Principal events of Roosevelt's administration; Some of Roosevelt's friends and enemies.

7th Meeting: Debate—Should the Philippines become independent?

8th Meeting: Goethals and Panama.

Sketch of Goethals and his associates; Review of the history of the Isthmus and the canal to date; the Hays-Pauncefote Treaty and the Monroe Doctrine.

9th Meeting: Debate—Shall the canal be free to all nations?

10th Meeting: Woodrow Wilson.

Sketch of his life; Review of his achievements as president; discussion of "The New Freedom."

11th Meeting: The Mexican policy.

Brief outline of the history of Mexico; Porfirio Diaz, Master of Mexico; What claims has he to greatness? President Wilson's Mexican policy.

12th Meeting: International Peace.

Review of Angell's "Great Illusion;" the Victoria Cross—has it been worth while? the Story of the Red Cross.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Helen J. McCaine, for nearly forty years librarian of the St. Paul Public Library, has resigned her position and retired from active work the first of February. The following appreciation of her services is quoted from an editorial in the St. Paul Dispatch:

"What other citizen of St. Paul has rendered the city forty years of continuous service, which in itself is sufficiently monumental to form its own monument? And no other citizen has served in so important a place, where the judgment and the foresight of each day affected so large a number of the people, where the material which passed through her hands and under her eyes affected beyond the measuring of time so many lives of so many citizens. There is today the conclusion of a remarkable service by Mrs. McCaine, librarian of the public library.

No period of the world has been filled with such a multitude of changes as the last forty years, and most particularly in the West, where villages have grown to mighty cities. It is impossible for 1913 to conceive what St. Paul was like in 1873; that year four decades back is as far back as 400 years, when America was being discovered. St. Paul was being discovered; and fortunately by men and women who believed no community could lay its foundations securely except on the foundation stones of the intellect and the spirit. They came hither for the splendid opportunities of doing; but they brought with them a love of the achieved things as they are embodied in books.

It was Mrs. McCaine's high privilege to

be placed in charge of these aspirations and achievements, back in those early days of the seventies when a new book in the community must have been an event to be talked over critically and appreciatingly. It has been the high privilege of the city to have this woman, of rare taste and discrimination, of an understanding of the needs of the city and of its unfortunate limitations through the tax levy, in charge of the treasury of books as it enlarged from the few shelves of forty years ago to the abundant deposit which waits the new library for a proper exposition.

The term of Mrs. McCaine's service ends today, this last day of the year. But there can be no limit set to the influence of her devoted service to the city. Quiet and most unassuming, she has been one of the powerful and pervading human influences during a longer period of years than any other man or woman in the city's history."

Dr. William Dawson Johnston succeeds Mrs. McCaine as librarian at St. Paul, beginning work January 1st. Dr. Johnston has been librarian at Columbia University since July 1, 1909. He is a graduate of Brown University in 1893, and took his Master of Arts degree at Harvard in 1898. He was an assistant in the Library of Congress from 1900 to 1907, and librarian of the Bureau of Education at Washington from 1907 to 1909. In 1911 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Rutgers College. He published the first volume of the "History of the Library of Congress" in 1904, and has been a frequent contributor to the Library Journal and other periodicals.

Raymond L. Walkley, a graduate of Yale University and of the N. Y. State Library School comes to Minneapolis March 1st to be general assistant to the librarian. Mr. Walkley has had library experience in the Yale University Library, the Free Public Library of Newark, N. J., and in the U. S. Bureau of Education at Washington.

Miss Blanche Seely, formerly librarian of the Pillsbury Branch, Minneapolis, has been made supervisor of branches.

Miss Maud Derickson, formerly in the University library, succeeds Miss Seely as librarian of the Pillsbury Branch.

Miss Minnie E. Sears, Head Cataloger of the General Library of the State University, has resigned to accept a position as head of the Reference Cataloging Department in

the New York Public Library. Miss Sears' resignation took effect on the first of February and her place has been taken by Miss Edna Goss who recently came to the University Library from the University of California Library. Miss Helen Smith, head of the Loan Department has also resigned and her place has been filled by Miss Vivian Colgrove, former assistant in that department. Miss Blanche Young, graduate of this University, class of 1911, has been appointed as assistant to Miss Colgrove.

Miss Della McGregor, assistant librarian in the Sheboygan public library, has been appointed assistant in the children's department of the St. Paul Public Library beginning March 23d.

Miss Clara J. Conway has resigned as librarian at Stillwater to take effect April 1st, and will be married in April to Dr. F. A. Bordwell, of Marmarth, N. D.

Miss Audiene Graham has been elected librarian at Owatonna, beginning work in January. Miss Graham is a graduate of Western Reserve Library School, 1913, and has been on the staff of the Carnegie Library at Oil City, Pa.

Miss Grace Foland of Benson, Wisconsin Library School, 1910, has gone to the Helena, Mont., Public Library, as cataloging assistant. Miss Irene Hudson succeeds her as librarian at Benson.

Miss Blanche Seger has resigned her position as librarian at Winnebago on account of ill health. Miss Winifred White has been appointed her successor.

Mrs. Hilda O. Slind has been elected librarian at Madison succeeding Mrs. Sarah Hurd.

Miss Frances Sawyer, Wisconsin Library School, 1913, formerly reference assistant in the public library at Edmonton, Can., has gone to Keewatin, Minn., to take charge of the school and public library.

NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

(Items of news for this column are solicited from all libraries in the state. They should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission by the 15th of the month preceding each issue of the bulletin, which appears quarterly in March, June, September and December.)

Albert Lea. A new roof costing \$300 has been put on the library building.

Alexandria. On Saturday afternoons a story hour for younger children is conducted by Mrs. J. J. Volker, a member of the library board.

Aurora. The public library has been opened in the village hall with about 200 volumes. Members of the library board will serve as librarians for the present.

Baudette. The ladies of the Library Association gave a dance for the benefit of the library January 15th.

Brainerd. An exhibit of children's books for Christmas gifts was held in the Library Hall early in December. At the same time there was an art exhibit of hand-made lace, embroidery and baskets. A Christmas entertainment was given for the story-hour children.

Browns Valley. Beginning January 10th, arrangements have been made to have the library open every evening and on Saturday afternoon, in charge of Miss Katherine Schoonmaker, principal of the grade building.

Cass Lake. The first annual report of the Cass Lake library shows the total receipts for the year to be over \$200, and a total of 643 volumes in the library. A dance was given for the benefit of the library on February 20th.

Chatfield. Plans for the \$6,000 Carnegie building have been accepted, and the contract will be let in the near future.

Chisholm. The new library building is nearing completion, and will be open in April as soon as the furniture is installed. A victrola has been purchased with records of songs in foreign languages, including Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Servian and Croatian-Servian.

Cloquet. An exhibit of Christmas books for children attracted considerable attention. Orders were taken through the library, as there is no regular bookstore in town.

Crookston. The library board has tried the experiment of keeping the library open on Sunday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30. If the patronage is sufficient the plan will be continued.

Duluth. The West End branch will be moved March 1st to a more convenient location on the ground floor.

Eveleth. The library building is practically completed, and will soon be ready for use.

Fulda. A series of chain teas is being given to raise money for the library, which is to be moved into the Commercial Club rooms.

Graceville. The Carnegie corporation has agreed to increase the donation to Graceville to \$7,000, in accordance with the increased guarantee of maintenance fund by the village council.

Granite Falls. The council has revoked their act appropriating an amount for a Carnegie library on account of the financial condition of the city.

Hibbing. Orders for books as Christmas gifts were placed through the library. Two additional branch libraries in the mining locations were opened the first of January. A rental collection of late fiction has been started.

Hopkins. A benefit concert for the library was given in December. Through the efforts of a number of interested citizens, a collection of nearly 300 Bohemian books has been added to the library.

Howard Lake. The Library and Improvement Club has again made the library free to the public, which has resulted in a large increase in patronage over the past two years when a fee has been charged.

Kenyon. A recital by Amanda Kidder added \$14.60 to the library fund.

Le Roy. A box social for the benefit of the library was given December 29, at which a farce "How the story started" was presented.

Litchfield. The Litchfield library has placed traveling libraries in several stations throughout Meeker county, in consideration of the aid received from the county commissioners.

Little Falls. The receipts from a concert amounting to \$74.15, were devoted to the purchase of children's books.

Long Prairie. Last winter the women of the village gave a series of teas for the benefit of the library, realizing about \$100. This winter a similar plan has been undertaken by the men. The proceeds of a lecture amounted to \$18.50.

Madison. The library board recently called a meeting of men and women interested in the progress of the library to develop a wider interest in the library and to receive suggestions from the public that might aid the board in serving the community better.

The Reader's guide has been purchased and files of magazines are being bound.

Mankato. Some new shelving in the ref-

erence room makes the arrangement of the bound periodicals more convenient.

A collection of children's books suitable for Christmas gifts, was on exhibition in the trustees' room for two weeks. The collection was made up in part of books from the children's room and also from books loaned from the local book stores.

Minneapolis. A \$15,000 addition to the North Side branch has been started, and lots have been purchased for two additional branches, which will be erected soon, one in New Boston and the other at 6th Ave N. and Emerson.

Monticello. The annual home talent entertainment added about \$100 to the library fund.

Moorhead. The library tax has been raised to two mills, which makes an increase of between \$600 and \$700 in the library appropriation. Some improvements in the shelving are to be made at once, and monthly purchases of new books will be made. The county extension work is proving successful. Eleven traveling libraries of 25 and 50 volumes have been located, and any teacher in the county may borrow a limited number of books for use in school. Collections of pictures are loaned under the same conditions as books.

Mountain Iron. The Carnegie Corporation has offered \$8,000 to the village of Mountain Iron for a library building.

Nicollet. A public library has been started at Nicollet, a village of about 300 people near St. Peter.

Northfield. An important gift to the library is a file of New York Tribune from the time preceding and during the Civil war.

Northome. A hard times dance given at the village hall, February 12, for the benefit of the library was a complete success in every way.

Ortonville. An excellent site on the Main St. has been secured for the library building, and plans are being drawn by F. H. Ellerbe, of St. Paul.

Owatonna. An exhibit of children's books for Christmas gifts was held in the library for a week in December.

Paynesville. The Book Lovers Club has contributed over \$25 to the public library for books, and is furnishing material for a library table and chairs to be made by the high school boys in the Manual training de-

partment. A gift of over 60 books has been made by Miss Agonia Helmerdinger.

Red Wing. Christmas was appropriately celebrated both at the main library and the West End reading-room. A club has been organized among the younger girls at the West End.

A valuable collection of laces, fabrics, embroideries, jewelry and curios from the Philippines, India, Java and Japan has been presented to the library by Miss Katherine Williamson, formerly of Red Wing. A special case has been placed in the reception room to receive this collection, which it is hoped will become a nucleus for a museum.

Rochester. The county commissioners have renewed the appropriation of \$300 to the Rochester Public Library for extension work. The traveling libraries have proved very popular, there being eleven stations now supplied and the twelfth spoken for. The total county circulation outside the city for 1913 was 9,029. The rural clubs which are very well organized in Olmsted Co. are regularly assisted in their work.

St. Charles. A library social was held at the Merchants Hotel in December, by which \$11.15 was raised. A similar entertainment will be given each month to meet the current expenses of the library.

St. Cloud. The public library has received an increase in its appropriation of \$300.

St. James. The second year of the St. James Public Library there were 13,983 visitors and 9,220 books were loaned. A file of clippings has been started which contains material on about 150 subjects.

Subscriptions have been solicited for the support of the library. The list has been generously started with \$100 from the First National Bank and \$51 from A. R. Voss.

St. Paul Public Library. At the suggestion of the librarian, the city superintendent of schools has appointed a committee representing high schools, and a second committee representing grade schools, to cooperate with the public library in school library work.

Investigation of the library enrollment of public school teachers shows that of the supervisors 50 per cent are card holders; of the high school teachers 76 per cent; of the grade school teachers 71 per cent.

St. Peter. The public library has received a special appropriation of \$250 to be used in necessary repairs on the building.

Spring Valley. New shelving has been placed in the children's room, so that all the children's books are now found in their own room.

Staples. The public library has been re-organized with the assistance of Miss Haven, of the Library Commission, and is now open to the public in new quarters in charge of Rev. T. J. E. Wilson.

Stillwater. A gift of German books has been received from the German Ladies Reading Club. A branch has been opened in one of the outlying schools. The story-hour was resumed in January and will continue through the winter months. An agricultural traveling library has been located at Copas, making fifteen stations in the entire county.

Thief River Falls. The Carnegie Corporation has offered \$12,500 for a library building.

A gift of 67 new books has been received from the Ladies' Civic Club.

Wabasha. A branch library is to be established in a store for the convenience of the people on the West Side.

Wadena. An effort is being made to increase the membership in the library association. The library is free to all, but while 410 people are borrowers, only a very small number pay anything for its support, and the only income is that derived from entertainments. The Order of Foresters has presented to the library the Catholic encyclopedia in 15 volumes.

Walker. The library has started a renting collection of recent fiction.

Waseca. The library has received as a New Year's gift a book case and a number of books.

Wells. The ladies of the Current Events Club gave a home talent entertainment for the benefit of the library.

White Bear. Plans for the \$5,000 Carnegie library, drawn by A. S. Devor, of St. Paul, have been approved and work will begin early in the spring.

Winona. An exhibit of children's books for Christmas was held in the library for ten days in December.

An out-of-town visitor speaks in high praise of the service rendered by the Winona library, which he considers the "crowning glory" of that beautiful city, recalling the "many pleasant hours spent in the well stocked, kindly attended, child haunted library of Winona."